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Eastern District of California

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GROWING OVER 1,000 MARIJUANA PLANTS IN WHISKEYTOWN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA BRINGS 10-YEAR SENTENCE

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton sentenced FRANCISCO HUATO SANCHEZ, 26, of Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico, to 120 months in prison for manufacturing over 1,000 marijuana plants.

This case was is the product of a joint investigation by the United States Department of the Interior, National Parks Service and the Shasta County Sheriff's Office with aerial surveillance by the California National Guard.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Russell L. Carlberg, who prosecuted the case, a National Parks Service special agent and Shasta County Sheriff's deputies arrested HUATO SANCHEZ in the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area on August 29, 2007 in the middle of an extensive marijuana grow operation. When arrested, the defendant was armed with a pistol. Agents subsequently seized over 6,000 marijuana plants.

United States Attorney Scott stated, "This substantial sentence sends a strong warning to those who would cultivate marijuana in our national parks and forests."

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